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## POLISH CENSUS REGARDED AS WAR-PREPARATION MEASURE

According to the Communist Polish press, the first census in Poland since 1931 has evoked a flood of rumors. The census, conducted on 3 December, also provided for the registration of wealth, land, and livestock. It aroused much unrest among the peasants. The Polish newspapers report that the peasants began to slaughter their livestock and to mill their grain, as they thought that the government, in view of the tense world situation, was about to confiscate their supplies.

There was unrest in the cities too, as many of the inhabitants connected the census with the war rumors, and feared an imminent deportation. Just before the outbreak of the German-Soviet war, the Russians staged giant-scale deportations in Eastern Poland.

A curious thing about the census form is that there was a heading stating that people under arrest are to be considered residing at home, but those in prison, forced labor camps, etc., are to be considered not residing at home. This would seem to indicate that a great many have been arrested or sentenced in Poland.

A number of decrees also have contributed to the war psychosis. Hospital personnel, trained nurses, experts in medical analysis, and laboratory personnel have been advised in the newspapers that it is obligatory to register.

The stream of Russian war materiel to Poland or via Poland to East Germany increases. The number of Russian troops in Poland has increased. Practically the entire Polish coastline is under Russian control. Furthermore, the conscription tempo has increased. Four annual classes, or about 400,000 men, are at present under arms in Poland.

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